

iPad – Accessibility Features

The iPad offers a number of inbuilt features to enhance accessibility for students with vision impairments. Although many apps will allow you to change the settings in the apps the best place to go first is the “Settings” icon. Once in Settings there is a list of menu headings on the left hand side of the page. Select General and you will find a list of options on the right hand side of the screen. Go down and select “Accessibility”. Here you will find a heading called “Vision” with six different options: VoiceOver, Zoom, Large Text, White on Black, Speak Selection and Speak Auto-text.

The most useful of these are detailed below:

VoiceOver – speaks text and icons

If you only want to use VoiceOver you need to make sure Zoom is turned **off**!

- Go to the Settings icon on the iPad home screen
- Select General, on the left hand side of the screen
- Select Accessibility, on the right hand side of the screen
- The first heading is VoiceOver, tap once and then another single tap to turn it on.

Operating the iPad with VoiceOver on

- VoiceOver will read the icons as you tap on the screen. The nice thing about this is that nothing else will happen as it takes a double tap to open the app.
- To open the selected app – tap twice
- To scroll to the next page – flick with three fingers (this is quite a firm action and may take a bit of practise)

A note of caution: Beware of the **screen curtain** when VoiceOver is on!

- The screen curtain is like a screen saver. It is activated by tapping three times with three fingers when VoiceOver is on.
- Try it!
- The screen goes black!
- To turn the screen curtain off tap three times

Zoom – allows screen enlargement with a double tap

- Go to the Settings icon on the iPad home screen
- Select General, on the left hand side of the screen
- Select Accessibility
- The second heading down is Zoom, tap once to get into Zoom and then double tap to turn it on.

Moving the image around the screen

- To Zoom - double tap with three fingers (do the same to turn it off)
- To move around screen – drag three fingers around the screen while zoomed
- To go to the next screen swipe with three fingers

Large Text

- Go to the Settings icon on the iPad home screen
- Select General, on the left hand side of the screen
- Select Accessibility

- The third heading down is Large Text, tap once to get into the next page which lists a selection of print sizes from 20 to 56 point. Tap on your preferred print size. This will make print larger in contacts, mail and notes.
- Can be used with Zoom or VoiceOver on.

White on Black

Some students prefer to have a black screen with white print and this option allows them to do this.

- Go to the Settings icon on the iPad home screen
- Select General, on the left hand side of the screen
- Select Accessibility
- The fourth heading down is White on Black, tap once to turn it on.

Triple Click Home – Toggle between VoiceOver and Zoom

This option allows you to alternate between VoiceOver and Zoom.

- Make sure Zoom is already on.
- Go to the Settings icon on the iPad home screen
- Select General, on the left hand side of the screen
- Select Accessibility
- Go down to the Triple-click Home and set it to “Toggle Voice Over”
- A triple-press on the iPad’s physical Home button will disable Zoom and enable VoiceOver. Another triple-press on the Home button will toggle back to Zoom

You can select the options you want to toggle on and off eg some students like to toggle between Zoom and White on Black.

Also in Settings

Settings has a number of other menu headings worth exploring for users with vision impairments including:

- **Brightness and Wallpaper**
You can alter the brightness of the screen and change the background the colour of the iPad
- **Mail, Contacts, Calender**
Select a large font size
- **Bluetooth (under General)**
Try bluetooth for syncing a small portable keyboard or braille device to the iPad
- **Keyboard (under General)**
Customise keystrokes eg auto-capitalisation, auto-correction, enable caps lock, check spelling
There is also an option for adding your own shortcuts

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